GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:455
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
PRESERVATION AND DIGITALISATION OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS OF NATIONAL HISTORY
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that over 2,00,000 documentary films of Films Division of India, that record 50 years of nation`s history and development have not been preserved properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for such neglect; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for proper preservation and digitalisation of these documentary films?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b): Films Division is having an archival legacy of more than 8,000 films preserved in over 2,00,000 cans. It is true that ideal preservation facilities were lacking due to which decomposition has set in, in some of the cans.

(c): Government has set up a Committee to undertake categorization and restoration of the precious archives, both in conventional as well as digital format and their transfer in High Definition/ Digibeta Tapes for preservation.. The original celluloid format of most precious films will be transferred to the vaults of National Film Archives of India, Pune for its safe preservation away from Mumbai`s humidity and salinity.